

PSC NEWS Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-03-106

PSC TO HOLD FIXED BILL PROGRAMS ROUNDTABLE

Jefferson City (January 21, 2003)---Fixed Bill Programs will be the focus of a Missouri Public Service Commission Roundtable on Friday, January 24, 2003 in Jefferson City.

"Extraordinarily high natural gas prices in the winter of 2000-2001 and price volatility since that winter have prompted a number of parties to express an interest in fixed bill programs," stated PSC Energy Department Manager Warren Wood. "Some customers are interested in fixing their bills for budget and/or convenience reasons while others just know they cannot afford their energy bills if they go above a certain level."

Fixed bill programs differ from budget billing programs in that customers under a fixed bill program have a flat bill for 12 months at a time and are not subject to "true-up" balances at the end of their 12 months. "Several states have implemented fixed bill programs," stated Wood.

The roundtable will begin at 1:00 p.m. on January 24, 2003, in the 4th Floor Ballroom of the Governor Office Building (200 Madison) in Jefferson City. Roundtable discussions provide for an open exchange of ideas, opinions and information among various stakeholders. The Fixed Bill Programs Roundtable is scheduled to end at 4:30 p.m.